NOVEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 8:15 p.m.

Place: Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Earl L. Hilfiker

Subject: "WILDLIFE OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS"

A central character in this first of the 1964-1965 series of Audubon Screen Tours is the beaver and in this film a remarkable opportunity is afforded to study these animals at work and at play. The step-by-step process of constructing a beaver dam is shown in extraordinary close-up photography. A particular highlight is seeing them walking on their hind legs and carrying mud for repairing their homes.

Frogs, toads and other amphibia are shown in close range sequences and spawning fish are recorded on film as well as an unusual sequence of trout eggs hatching.

Mr. Hilfiker has been Assistant Curator of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences and has served as photographer for the New York Conservation Department.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"VOYAGE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE" begins November 4 and will extend through November 29. Many historical events have been preceded or followed by unusual astronomical occurrences. As a result, the two have been irrevocably linked in the pageant of history. Some of these odd and interesting coincidences are examined by the Planetarium astronomers.

Performances daily at 3:30, with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30 p.m. Extra matinees, Saturdays and Sundays, at 2:00. The Planetarium is closed Monday and Tuesday evenings.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"THE SEA OF CORTEZ", the Academy's first documentary film, in color, photographed in and around the Gulf of California. Special showings for the general public on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the months of October and November at 12:45, 2:15 and 3:45 p.m.

Admission: Adults, $1.00, Juniors, 50¢

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"FLOWER PORTRAITS", life-size and lifelike watercolors by Ethelynde Smith, continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature to the end of the month.

Exhibit of the Month: "TUATARA", a specimen of a living fossil from the Academy collections. Main Foyer, Science Museaum.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

(Schedule for viewers in the San Francisco Bay Area: Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m., KTVU-Channel 2. For other California areas, see the TV listings in your local paper).

November 1: "TROUT CONSERVATION", with Guest Scientist Dr. Alex Calhoun, California Department of Fish and Game.

November 8: "SILENT SOUNDS", with Alan Simpkins, President Delcon Corporation.

November 15: "GALILEO GALILEI", with Stillman Drake, author and translator.

November 22: "ISLES OF CORTEZ", with George E. Lindsay, Director, California Academy of Sciences.

November 29: "SEA OF CORTEZ", with Earl S. Herald, Superintendent-Curator, Steinhart Aquarium.

NEWS and NOTES .....

On September 29, the Board of Trustees of the Academy announced the appointment of Dr. Robert T. Orr as Associate Director.

Dr. Orr, who has been an active and important member of the staff since 1936 and Curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy since 1945, retired this past spring from his duties as Professor of Biology at the University of San Francisco. As the membership knows, Dr. Orr is an excellent photographer and the author of many successful books. His "The Animal Kingdom" will be published by the Macmillan Company next spring.

Steinhart Aquarium has a new and enchanting rarity included in its family, a gift of the San Francisco Aquarium Society. "Whiskers", a freshwater dolphin from the Peruvian Amazon, was flown to the Academy from Tampa, Florida, with a short, unexpected stopover at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. "Whiskers", known scientifically as Inia geoffrensis, showed signs of indisposition during the flight, and his special attendant in the person of Robert Dempster, Assistant Superintendent at Steinhart, felt a dolphin-break in Chicago would be just what the doctor might order.

Visit Tank #43 in Steinhart and you will see how well "Whiskers" withstood the trip. The alligator gars that abide next door still haven't quite figured out just what or who the charming interloper is.

The Department of Entomology has lately received the final lot of the valuable Lawrence W. Saylor collection of scarabaeid beetles. Mr. Saylor has been associated with the Academy since his student days at the University of California at Berkeley where he studied under the late Dr. Edwin C. Van Dyke, Honorary Curator of the Academy's Entomology Department. Mr. Saylor is now employed in an administrative position with the U.S. Navy in Oakland.

The collection, given in parts over a period of 20 years, totals almost 45,000 specimens. It is the basis for some 75 technical papers by Mr. Saylor, many of them revisional and well illustrated, in which he described 13 genera and more than 215 species as new to science. His specialty has been the "June beetles", brown scarabs about an inch long, and the collection has over 100 primary types (holotypes) in this group alone. Material from Mexico, Central and South America is especially well represented. There is also a valuable accompanying library.

Dr. Ralph Emerson, a Trustee of the Academy and currently Acting Chairman of the Department of Botany at the University of California at Berkeley, was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Botanical Society of America at the annual meetings of the American Institute of Biological Sciences held at Boulder, Colorado. The citation, in part, reads: "To Ralph Emerson, in recognition of distinguished achievement in and contributions to the advancement of botanical science, for his unparalleled success in integrating research and teaching."

In concert with a former student, Donald G. Cooney, Dr. Emerson is the author of a book currently being published by W. H. Freeman & Co. of San Francisco: "Thermophilic Fungi." The volume was begun in 1944 when Dr. Emerson was working as a microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and continued by Dr. Cooney while working toward his doctorate at Berkeley.

Meet the Staff

BRUCE A. KOCK, Honorary Curator of Horology, has been preoccupied with time and time-telling devices since his San Francisco childhood. Together with his mother's vacuum cleaner, discarded clocks and watches were favorite items for internal examination and this mechanical inquiry led to a lifelong concern with wheel and gear.

Educated in Bay Area schools, Mr. Kock at first turned to commercial art for a career. As happened with many, World War II interrupted his well-laid plans for brush and pen. On his discharge from the Navy in 1945, he turned to teaching mathematics and mechanical drawing for a brief period. This was followed by entry into the world of business where he has remained since, with offices in both San Francisco and Oakland.

His collecting of horological items has become, according to him, "somewhat more sophisticated" as time has passed. Not only does he have a fine collection of clocks representing all periods of history from 1520, but also astrolabes, orreries, and sundials. His current concern is with really ancient time-measuring devices but finds them difficult to acquire.

Mr. Kock became acquainted with the late Dr. William Barclay Stephens (the gentleman responsible for the Academy's horological collection) many years ago and because of their mutual respect and interest, it was logical that Mr. Kock assume Dr. Stephens' role upon the latter's decease.

"Dr. Stephens' legacy to the Academy is one of the finest in the U.S. in that each item was expressly collected to illustrate the development of mechanical horology from its earliest known beginnings to the present time," Mr. Kock commented. "It is both an inspired collection and a valuable one. I am proud to be of assistance in maintaining it."

He lives in Oakland with his wife Velma and their twin children. In addition to his collection of timepieces, he is fascinated by furniture and paintings of the Italian renaissance and is an expert at restoring both.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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